

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**PERATA ANNOUNCES SENATE APPOINTMENTS:**

**The Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism**

(SACRAMENTO) – Senate President pro Tem Don Perata, Chair of the Senate Rules Committee, has announced the following appointments:

**Magdalena Beltran-del Olmo**, a Democrat from Glendale, is the Vice President of Communications for the California Wellness Foundation.

**Stephen Beneto**, a Republican from Carmichael is the Owner of Beneto Tank Lines.

**Maureen Burness**, a Democrat from Sacramento, is an Assistant Superintendent for the Placer County Special Education Local Planning Agency.

**Rudy Castruita, Ed.D.**, a Republican from San Diego, is the Superintendent of Schools for San Diego County.

**David Kears**, a Democrat from Oakland, is the Agency Director of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency.

**Kenneth Simril**, a Republican from Hollywood, has been appointed to the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism. Mr. Simril Ken Simril currently holds the position of President at Fleischmann's Vinegar Company and is responsible for the management of the Company's operating activities, financial performance and strategic initiatives.

**Darrell Steinberg**, (Commission Chairperson) a Democrat from Sacramento, is an attorney with the firm of Hanson Bridgett specializing in Government Ethics and Government Relations.

**Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis**, a Democrat from San Francisco, is the President of AKT Development, a land development firm.

The Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism will study and investigate issues, including, but not limited to, the early identification and intervention of autism spectrum disorders (ASD); identify gaps in programs, services and funding related to the early identification, education and treatment of ASD and provide recommendations to close the identified gaps. These are pleasure terms.